

# WARD 11 Newsletter



Council Member Scott Benson

DIAMOND LAKE, FIELD, HALE, KINGFIELD NORTHRUP, PAGE, TANGLETOWN, WINDOM, and WENONA

## Revised 2009 budget makes Public Safety and Public Works top priorities

On Monday, Feb. 23, Mayor R.T. Rybak presented his proposal for a new 2009 City budget. The City is being forced to revise its budget because Governor Tim Pawlenty cut \$13.1 million in funding to Minneapolis at the end of 2008 and is now proposing another \$35 million in permanent cuts through 2010.

The proposed budget, which will be considered by the City Council, includes cuts to every City department. While every effort was made to reduce job losses, the magnitude of the needed cuts means that staff reductions are unavoidable.

If allocated equally across the city, the Governor's proposed cuts to Minneapolis for this year would have led to the elimination of 161 jobs, including 57 sworn officer positions and 19 civilian positions in the police department and 27 firefighter positions. However, Federal Stimulus money, a reduced City debt, and cuts in City services will limit these job cuts to 59. About half of those cuts are in management, and 26 of the 59 eliminated positions are currently vacant. Also, the proposed budget does not call for layoffs in the police or fire departments, although six vacant fire department positions will not be filled.

The Mayor's proposal would eliminate the Civil Rights Complaint Investigations Unit and the City's Health Lab. Both are services that the State or other jurisdictions are already providing.

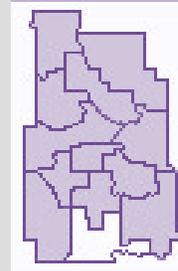
This budget proposal was prepared after having many discussions with City leaders, employees and residents at budget forums or from ideas and feedback sent via e-mail, Web survey, or suggestion box. That process generated many ideas for cost savings and efficiencies that City leaders will consider as they prepare the 2010 City budget, which is likely to require even more significant cuts.

The City Council will consider the Mayor's proposal over the next two weeks, and is expected to vote on a final 2009 budget in early March.

For more information on the new proposed 2009 budget for the City, go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2009budget](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2009budget).

Volume 8 Issue 3

March 2009



### Inside this issue:

<i>Minneapolis the "coolist" city</i>	2
<i>Recycling Calendar</i>	2
<i>Community Engagement Committee appointees</i>	3
<i>Use of road salt</i>	3
<i>Community meetings</i>	4
<i>HPDL Crime &amp; Safety Meeting</i>	4

## Minneapolis among 15 “coolest” North American cities

Public art, a lively music and arts scene, and stunning architecture are some of the reasons that MSN Travel is urging tourists to consider Minneapolis for an urban getaway in 2009. Minneapolis was named as one of MSN Travel’s 15 Coolest North American Cities – Where to go for an urban getaway in 2009.

MSN Travel recommends tourists explore the urban renaissance going on across North America. More than 226 million people live in metropolitan areas, greater numbers than any other time in history. World-class museums, lush parks and gardens, vibrant nightlife and breathtaking architecture are some of the main draws of the cities recommended.

Along with Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Chicago, Santa Fe, N.M., Denver, Savannah, Ga., New York City, Vancouver, B.C., Philadelphia, Boston, Las Vegas, Nashville, Tenn., Austin and Portland, Ore. round out MSN Travel’s 15 coolest North American Cities.

### Important Phone Numbers

Ward 11 office:  
673-2211

35W/Crosstown  
Construction  
Hotline:  
1-866-743-6590

## Use City’s recycling calendar to help reduce your impact on the environment

City of Minneapolis recycling customers should have received the City’s 2009 recycling calendar. The calendar will tell you what you can and can’t recycle through the City service, and it will show all the dates in 2009 when you should put out your recycling. Recycling saves natural resources, energy and money, and it’s easy to recycle in Minneapolis.

More than 90 percent of the households in Minneapolis participate in the City’s recycling program, with the average resident recycling around 2.3 pounds of material per day. Two weeks’ worth of recycling collections brings in around three-to-four tons of recyclables per truck. Together, we set out more than 23,000 tons of cans, glass, newspaper, etc., to be collected and recycled into new products every year.

It’s also easy for residents to recycle their old electronics. **In fact, Minneapolis is the only city in the nation where electronics are picked up regularly for recycling.** If you have an old TV or other electronic device to get rid of, just set it next to your garbage cart on your recycling day with a sign on it that says, “for solid waste.” A crew will come back for it the next business day.

For more information about recycling in Minneapolis, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/recycling](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/recycling). To learn more about what you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/garbage-zero-hero.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/garbage-zero-hero.asp).

# City Appoints Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

Half of all appointments have now been made for the 16-member Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). Seven members were approved by Mayor R.T. Rybak and the City Council in early February. They join one member appointed by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. The remaining eight appointments will be made by Minneapolis neighborhoods.

In September 2008, City leaders approved establishing the NCEC to oversee the City's relationship with neighborhoods, community organizations and the crucial link between City services and its residents. The commission is being charged with providing direction to the next phase of community engagement in Minneapolis and will be primarily responsible for the review of neighborhood plans. The NCEC will also make recommendations to the City Council on allocation of a variety of types of funding to neighborhoods.

The Mayor and City Council's appointees are Tony Anastasia, Audubon Park; David Crockett, Stevens Square/Loring Heights; Crystal Johnson, Near North; Ed Newman, Loring Park; Matt Perry, East Harriet/Farmstead; Breanne Rothstein, Windom; Jeffrey Strand, Shingle Creek.

To learn more about Minneapolis' Community Engagement work, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp).

## Road salt use: balancing safety, the environment and fiscal responsibility

Salt can help melt away slippery snow and ice that coats our streets, alleys and sidewalks in the winter. Unfortunately, that salt can be harmful to plants as well as our lakes and waterways.

The City of Minneapolis does its best to keep the streets clear as possible while also considering the impact on the natural environment. Our street maintenance managers are constantly monitoring and reassessing our salt use, making sure they're effectively balancing public safety with environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility.

When roads are slippery, crews spread rock salt on the most heavily traveled streets in town. For residential streets, which often have a snow-packed base in the winter, "road sand" (a 4-to-1 mix of sand and salt) is used instead for traction on hills, curves and intersections. When temperatures climb toward the freezing point, straight salt may be used to help get down to bare pavement on these residential streets.

A different kind of de-icer called calcium chloride is used on sidewalks cleared by the City. This is typically the same thing you buy at the store for your own home use. Calcium Chloride tends to be less harmful to the environment but, since it costs a lot more than regular salt, it's much too expensive to use on the streets in the quantities needed.

Also, as an ongoing effort, the City of Minneapolis looks for other ways to reduce the amount of salt used on streets and sidewalks. Below are some examples:

- Snow removal crews have experimented with a number of alternative chemicals on sidewalks and stairways, including some agriculturally based products. To date, none of the substances tested have proven to be as effective or economical to use as our current treatments.
- Crews have tried treating streets with salt brine before the ice can form in a process called "anti-icing." Theoretically, this preventative technique can lead to less salt being needed for snow and ice control later. However, our research has shown that this method is not that effective in our climate and urban environment. A pilot program used a proprietary product that was basically salt treated with magnesium chloride instead of plain salt on some streets. It was determined that the minimal benefits gained from this product did not justify its higher cost.

Street crews take precautions to prevent salt from harming the environment. Many of these are recognized as industry "best practices." They include making sure our salt stockpiles are covered so rainwater doesn't dissolve away salt and carry it into our waterways.

## Monthly Community Meetings

<p><b>Field Regina Northrop</b>  <b>FRNNG.org</b>  Meets Third Wednesday  6:30 PM  Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p><b>Hale Page Diamond Lake</b>  <b>HPDL.org</b>  Meets Fourth Monday  7:00 PM  Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p><b>Kingfield</b>  <b>Kingfield.org</b>  Meets Second Wednesday  7:00 PM</p>
<p><b>NENA</b>  <b>Nokomiseast.org</b>  Meets Fourth Thursday  7:00 PM  NENA Office</p>	<p><b>Tangletown</b>  <b>Tangletown.org</b>  Meets Third Monday  7:00 PM  Fuller Community Center</p>	<p><b>Windom</b>  <b>Windomcommunity.org</b>  Meets Second Thursday  7:00 PM  Windom Community Center</p>

## Hale, Page Diamond Lake Neighborhood's Crime & Safety Meeting

The Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Crime and Safety

Committee will be holding their annual crime and safety meeting on:

**Monday, March 16 at 7:00 PM at Pearl Park, 414 Diamond Lake Road**

### Special guests include:

Lucy Gerold, 3rd Precinct Commander

Lt. Arthur Knight, Sector 3 Lieutenant

Sue Roethele, Crime Prevention Specialist

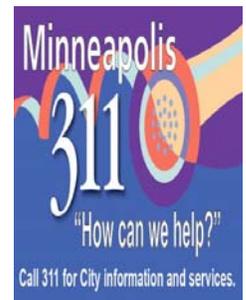
Maryam Williams, Minneapolis 911 Supervisor

## Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more than 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

For more information on open appointments visit:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>



## Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at [scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.